

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 09351 141629Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-10 SP-02 /040 W
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5733

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 09351

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (LOPEZ RODO, LAUREANO)
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS FOR LOPEZ RODO

1. SUMMARY: REQUEST DEPT ASSIST IN MAKING WASHINGTON
APPOINTMENTS DESIRED BY AP VICE PRESIDENT AND FORMER
FOREIGN MINISTER LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO DURING THE PERIOD
OCTOBER 11-14. END SUMMARY.

2. LAUREANO LOPEZ RODO, VICE PRESIDENT OF ALIANZA POPULAR
(AP) AND AP DEPUTY FOR BARCELONA, CALLED AT EMBASSY AUG. 10
TO REQUEST THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING
APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM WITH DEPT OFFICIALS AND SENATORS/
CONGRESSMEN DURING OCT. 11-14. LOPEZ RODO WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON AT THAT TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE
ON REGIONALISM, DURING WHICH HE WILL DELIVER A PAPER ON
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION. HE ALSO DESIRES TO MEET WITH
FORMER SECSTATE KISSINGER, WITH WHOM LOPEZ RODO DEALT WHEN
HE WAS SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND FOR WHOM HE
MANIFESTS GREAT RESPECT.

3. LOPEZ RODO, 57, WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FIGURE IN
SPANISH POLITICS DURING THE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S, WHEN
HE WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN PLANNING SPAIN'S "ECONOMIC
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MIRACLE" AND WAS CLOSE TO ADMIRAL LUIS CARRERO BLANCO,
WHO EMPLOYED OPUS DEI TECHNOCRATS LIKE LOPEZ RODO IN HIGH
GOVT POSITIONS. WHEN CARRERO WAS ASSASSINATED BY ETA
IN DECEMBER 1973, THE STAR OF LOPEZ RODO AND OTHER OPUS
DEI LEADERS BEGAN TO WANE. POSITIONS HELD BY HIM INCLUDE:

-- FULL PROFESSOR (CATEDRATICO) OF ADMINISTRATIVE

LAW AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AND MADRID;

- DEPUTY IN FRANCO-ERA PARLIAMENT (1958-1976);
- CHIEF OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1962);
- MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO AND CHIEF OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN (1965-1973);
- MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (1973-1974);
- AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA (1974-1976).

4. IN 1977 LOPEZ RODO JOINED WITH MANUEL FRAGA, FEDERICO SILVA AND OTHER FRANCO-ERA MINISTERS TO FORM THE CONSERVATIVE ALIANZA POPULAR (AP) PARTY. HE WAS THEN ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES FROM BARCELONA, THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL AP CANDIDATE IN THE ENTIRE CATALAN REGION AND ONE OF ONLY SIXTEEN DEPUTIES ELECTED BY AP NATIONWIDE. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE FINANCE AND ECONOMY COMMITTEES OF THE LOWER HOUSE, AND ALSO SITS ON THE 20-MEMBER COMMISSION THAT IS DRAFTING CATALONIA'S AUTONOMY STATUTE.

5. AS AN OPUS DEI "NUMERARY", LOPEZ RODO HAS TAKEN RELIGIOUS VOWS OF OBEDIENCE, POVERTY AND CHASTITY. HIS POLITICAL VIEWS ARE CONVENTIONALLY CONSERVATIVE, BUT HE WAS, FOR EXAMPLE, A SUPPORTER OF SPANISH INTEGRATION IN EUROPE (LONG ADVOCATED BY OPUS DEI TECHNOCRATS) BEFORE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BECAME FASHIONABLE IN SPANISH CONSERVATIVE CIRCLES. HE IS BY ALL REPORTS A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PETENT ADMINISTRATOR, ALTHOUGH HIS CONSERVATISM AND TENDENCY TOWARD PEDANTRY HAVE CAUSED HIM TO BE THE OBJECT OF HUMOR AND SOME SARCASM IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

6. LOPEZ RODO EMPHASIZED TO US THAT HE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING US-SPANISH RELATIONS WITH HIS WASHINGTON INTERLOCUTORS AND IN EXPLAINING THE CURRENT SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION AND PROCESS. IN RESPONSE, WE TOLD LOPEZ RODO THAT WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ASSIST HIM WITH THE DESIRED APPOINTMENTS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR HIM ALSO TO ATTEMPT TO WORK THROUGH THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WOULD LIKELY BE AWAY FROM WASHINGTON ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL.

7. WE WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO LOPEZ RODO, IN DEFERENCE TO HIS CURRENT AND FORMER POSITIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE REQUEST THAT HE BE RECEIVED BY ASST. SECRETARY VEST AND, IF POSSIBLE, ASST SECRETARY VAKY, SINCE LOPEZ RODO ALSO DESIRES TO DISCUSS LATIN AMERICA. AS FOR THE HILL, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR EUR/WE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SPANISH EMBASSY TO DETERMINE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO

LAY ON FOR LOPEZ RODO. AN EXCHANGE WITH FORMER
SECRETARY KISSINGER ALSO WOULD SEEM TO BE APPROPRIATE,
IN VIEW OF THE DEALINGS BETWEEN THE TWO MEN IN THE EARLY
1970'S.

8. PLEASE ADVISE. TODMAN

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